

## THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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All communications of argumentative character, political or religious, must have real name attached for publication. No such articles will be printed over fictitious signatures.

Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Saturday, February 19, 1910.

Reserve First avenue for the belt line.

City loyalty is a quality that every municipality needs.

"Let the town grow" should be Rock Island's slogan at the present time.

As Roosevelt will arrive in June, the Rockford Star predicts a hot month.

Bring in the interurbans, but give none the advantage over the others that may come.

Spread out the street car system. Rock Island wants expansion and ample rapid transit facilities will bring it.

Experience is a headlight that illuminates the track for miles, but, as has been well said, it is on the wrong end of the train.

Senator Heyburn's outburst against the proposal to lend army tents for a confederate's reunion indicates how mad a man can get in 45 years.

The National Geographical society, with aid offered by the Peary Arctic club and a \$10,000 contribution by Peary himself, will send an expedition to find the south pole. Captain Bartlett, who ran the Roosevelt, will head the expedition.

Senator Brackett has introduced a bill in the New York legislature providing that the women of the state shall be given opportunity to say whether they want the ballot or not. We trust that the senator has guarded against bringing the women together in one place to reach a decision.

San Francisco gambles again because the new mayor will forbid to no other man the hazards he enjoys for himself. At Hot Springs the cards turn once more because the town needs the money from fines. It is always interesting to trace the ethics of municipal government without a lid.

The house of representatives of the South Carolina legislature has ratified the proposed constitutional amendment for a personal income tax. The senate of the Illinois legislature recently took like action, and more recently Governor Fort of New Jersey urged ratification upon the legislature of that state. Governor Hughes of New York is against the proposal on the ground of its unconstitutionality.

## Five Minutes for a Trust.

The launching of a billion-dollar trust, it appears, is a matter of five minutes, and it must not interfere with a dinner engagement.

Discussing the suggestion that J. Pierpont Morgan be called as a witness in the pending telephone trust inquiry, the New York World says a lawyer representing interests in that combination said:

"I can assure you that his personal knowledge of this business was confined to a very brief conversation carried on in a taxicab with his partner, Mr. Davidson. The latter reported in five minutes what he was doing in the purchase of the companies and Mr. Morgan said, 'All right, go ahead; I must keep a dinner engagement.'"

It is well understood of course that the financial sovereignty of America cannot itself attend to every detail of his great business, but it will be news to most people that anybody can become so accustomed to the creation of billion dollar trusts as to authorize them languidly between yawns, as it were, at the close of a day devoted to matters of real importance.

Mr. Morgan's dinner engagements are inexorable. So should be the laws that run against monopolies.

## The Constitution.

It is sometimes dangerous to discuss a subject on its merits. This is especially the case when the subject is put in the shape of a bill and presented to the congress of the United States for action. It is still more especially dangerous if a statesman wishes to defeat the bill. Then the clever statesman avoids the question of merit altogether. He does not even stop to urge the question of demerit. He simply rises in his place and declares that the bill is "unconstitutional."

Of course it follows that the friends of the bill must prove that it is not unconstitutional, and by the time this fact has been fairly demonstrated congress adjourns for that session and the bill is left unpassed.

Just now the postal savings banks bill has been declared unconstitutional by Senator Rayner of Maryland. If the bill is unconstitutional it must of necessity be abandoned for the constitution is of more importance than

any bill. There are senators, however, who think that the bill is not unconstitutional, but as Senator Rayner has made his point it devolves upon those differing from him to prove the faith that is in them. The merits or demerits of the measure at once fall out of sight when the great constitutional question is raised.

Thus, one of the peculiarities of law-making is forced into national notice and the beauties of how not to do it are displayed to public gaze.

However, in the long run, those things which the masses of the people want get themselves embodied in the laws of this country and congressional views of constitutionality are modified by the voting attitude of the people.

## Tribute to the Farmer.

Archbishop Ireland declares that James J. Hill is right when he says, "The moral and social salvation of America rests with the farmer." In a signed statement for publication, the archbishop says:

"Of course, I, like so many others, have had to pay some attention to the economic problems now agitating the community—the high price of living and the consequent boycott instituted against the use of meat. Good will come from the discussion—much good, in my opinion, though very likely not in the direction that many expect.

"That the price of meat as the result of the agitation and boycott will for some time fluctuate, today downward, tomorrow upward, we may readily admit. But that meat will fall back permanently to the low prices of former years I am not disposed to believe. My reasons for the assertion seem to be very plain and convincing. The chief cause of this rise in price lies with the producer—the farmer—and as my sympathy goes out to the farmer very warmly, I am not oversorry for the conditions we are witnessing.

"Heretofore, cattle were raised by the millions over vast and unoccupied ranges of prairies, but the day of these ranges has passed. Cattle must now be raised on the small farm, seven or eight head by each farmer. The farmer formerly was more easily satisfied with the results of his toil—too easily, in my opinion, as he did not receive his due reward. Because of this comparatively unremunerative task, the cry was, more or less, away from the farm. Today the farmer is more enlightened on the general economic conditions of the country, and he demands his own.

"The salvation of America, social and moral, political and economic, is the farm. Where agriculture is not prized, the neglected nation must decay. The efforts of philanthropists and well wishers of their fellowmen, all tend toward encouraging agriculture.

The population of America has been in every decade increasing by leaps and bounds. There has been no proportionate increase in the number of farmers. Hundreds of thousands, seeking in vain employment in cities, hundreds of thousands eking out there a bare subsistence to their own great detriment, and to the yet greater detriment of their families, should be out upon the land, where comfort and peace await them. But that all this comes to happen, we must not begrudge the farmer his due reward for his work."

## The Illinois Parole Law Invalid.

The Illinois state supreme court has as known handed down a decision to the effect that the Illinois parole law is unconstitutional, and that the discharges from the state penitentiary on parole are illegal.

The decision declares that the board of pardons has no power whatever to discharge prisoners, but that the provisions of the original act of 1895, as amended in 1897, are still in force, that any parole or discharge granted by the board of pardons, is void because the board can recommend only a discharge, which must be ordered by the court in which the judgment was rendered, and have the approval of the governor of the state. According to this decision the action of the board taken in regard to Stensland, the defaulting Chicago banker, will not stand, and the case will have to go before the court which sentenced him, and have Governor Deneen's approval.

The board of pardons was inquiring into the case of Newton C. Dougherty, with a view to pardoning him on the recommendation of some of his friends when news of the decision was received and threw the board into confusion and stopped its proceedings, which, however, were afterward resumed, but unofficially, with the view of making recommendations to the governor, the power to do which the board still possesses.

Under this decision the members of the state board of pardons will be deprived of the \$1,500 salary which each has been allowed for his services.

## Feb. 19 in American History

1821—Spain ratified the treaty ceding Florida to the United States.  
1871—General James Bankhead Magruder, noted Confederate leader, died; born 1810.  
1891—Professor Alexander Winchell, famous geologist, died; born 1824.  
1902—John Moran, pioneer photographer and a noted landscape painter, died; born 1829.

Rheumatism Cured in a Day.  
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## SIGNS FOUR BILLS

Governor Deneen Hastens to Approve Acts of the Legislature.

## AIDS CHERRY SUFFERERS

Another Provides for Public Libraries for Cities and Villages of Not Over 2,000.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 19.—Four bills passed at the extra session of the legislature were approved yesterday by Governor Deneen. They are as follows:

Senate bill 40. This appropriates \$100,000 for the relief of the Cherry mine sufferers. The fund is to be distributed by the state board in such manner as in the opinion of the board will best conduce to the benefit of the beneficiaries. The board is required to make a full report to the governor when the distribution of the fund is completed.

Senate bill 6. This is an act authorizing the establishment and maintenance of free public libraries in cities and villages. The bill applies to cities of 2,000. The cities included within the act are empowered to exclude library taxes from their general taxes as limited by the cities and villages act.

Senate bill 27. This amends section 17 of the sanitary district act. Under the present law the sanitary district boards are required to report to the county clerks of counties embraced within the sanitary district all taxable property lying within the district in such country by the second day of August.

## Aids Occupational Disease Commission.

Senate bill 25. This bill amends the act creating the commission on occupational diseases by permitting the commission in its investigations to procure the aid of expert clerks and other necessary assistants. The bill carries no additional appropriation, but all expenses of the commission are to be met out of the appropriation of \$15,000 provided for in the bill creating the commission, passed at the last session of the general assembly.

## WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE SUGAR CUSTOM FRAUD INVESTIGATION?

(Continued from Page One.)

sional probe was well under way. So loudly had a couple of the republicans cried for an investigation that they were disinclined to abandon the project even at the suggestion of President Taft. These few progressives and insurgents were called to the White house. The president strongly urged them to abandon further agitation of the subject. What reasons he gave aside from those mentioned in his message the public does not know yet. The sugar trust is a good campaign fund contributor. Perhaps that had something to do with it. Anyway, those few republicans who had been agitating for an investigation by congress gradually turned their attention to other things. It looked like the sugar scandal had been successfully bottled and corked.

Has Not Made Good.  
But since Dec. 7 there have been developments which have convinced close observers that the government is going to be content with the imprisonment of a few minor employees. Here is what the record shows as to the sugar trust weighing frauds:

Splizer, the trust's dock superintendent, has been sent to the Atlanta prison for two years; four \$15-a-week government sugar checkers have been sent to Blackwell's Island for a year each; Bendernagel, the Williamsburg cashier, is awaiting retrial; Helke, the trust secretary, is under indictment; the sugar trust has made restitution to the government of \$2,000,000 of stolen duties; refunds by the National Sugar Refining company and Arbuckle makes the total amount stolen from the government \$3,434,304.

Big Men Overlooked.  
But not one of the really "big men" of the sugar trust has been brought to the bar, much less convicted.

"The sugar trust made a scapegoat of me," said Splizer, the trust's dock superintendent, after receiving his two year's sentence. "I was sacrificed so that the big men might save their own skins. The government cries for a victim, and the sugar trust answered by sacrificing me and four \$15-a-week checkers. None of us was guilty of any breach of the law, but somebody had to go to prison to save those 'higher up.'"

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## WAITING FOR WORD FROM AFRICA



NEW YORK.—Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Miss Eleanor Butler Alexander, who announced their betrothal recently, are still waiting for word from Theodore Roosevelt, the young man's father, who has been out of the reach of the telegraph in East Africa and therefore has to be informed by mail of the coming marriage. The ceremony will not be performed until the former president returns to the United States, which probably will be some time in June. Theodore, Jr., and Miss Alexander have been friends for about two years. They met first at a house party at the home of Mrs. Arthur Dodge in Simsbury, Conn., and renewed their acquaintance at the Taft inaugural ball.

## The Argus Daily Short Story

How He Got Even.—By Susan Young Porter.

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"Your action toward me throughout this affair has been dishonorable," said Shotwell.

"I see no occasion for you to make any such charge. You proposed to me, and I asked for time in which to make a decision. Meanwhile I was studying you. Had you not accused me of treating you dishonorably I should not have given you the result of my observations. As it is, I will say that I have discovered traits in your character that I do not fancy."

"This is simply an invention to cover your duplicity. You know very well that you encouraged me, then threw me overboard."

With that he withdrew, inwardly vowing revenge. The girl, instead of considering a man who would take the position he had taken contemptible, was crushed at his charge, weeping hot, bitter tears.

Shotwell was suffering from what he considered unfair treatment and in no mood to look at the matter dispassionately. Had he done so he would have recognized the fact that no contract had been made between them. Miss Gwynne had not accepted him, and even if she had and afterward dismissed him he should have remembered that it is a woman's privilege to change her mind. But in this particular case the lady had refused him for reason. Beyond all this no man should take revenge on a woman for refusing him, whether for or without cause.

The rejected lover's path led across a district of the city where the lowest part of the community lived, or, rather, existed, for in such crowded tenements as are occupied by the poorer classes people cannot be said to live. Coming toward him he saw a man whose face and bearing belied his torn and dirty clothing.

"That fellow resembles Belding, the multimillionaire, for all the world," mused Shotwell. Then, suddenly caught by an idea, he turned and called:

"Hi! You there!"  
The man faced about. Shotwell beckoned to him, and the two stood together on the sidewalk, when Shotwell began a series of questions.

"Have you ever been told you look like any one?"  
"Not that I remember."  
"Want a job?"  
"What kind of a job?"  
"Well, there's a bit of personation in it."

"What do you mean by that?"  
"I know a young lady who I think wouldn't mind marrying a fortune. You very much resemble Howard Belding, the millionaire. How would you like to try it?"

The man looked Shotwell square in the face, but Shotwell could not tell how his proposition was received. For a moment he thought he saw a flash of indignation, but the first remark that came from the ragged man reassured him.

"I hear your old dame, Virginia Gwynne, is to marry the rich young

philanthropist Howard Belding." Shotwell was astonished. "terror stricken, that so long after he had repeated of his meanness the damage had been done. He questioned his informant as to when the wedding was expected to come off, but received no satisfaction.

One desire now took possession of Shotwell—to reach America before Virginia Gwynne should full irrevocably into the trap he himself had laid for her. Making for Genoa, he found a steamer about to sail for New York. For two weeks he paced the deck, looking out on the same watery waste trying to stifle his impatience. They were the longest two weeks he had ever known. But at last the voyage was ended, and he hastened ashore, his first object being to learn if Miss Gwynne had married.

The wedding had not yet taken place.

Shotwell wrote his former love a note telling her that he had something of great importance to her welfare to communicate to her and asking for an interview. He received a brief reply appointing the next afternoon at 5 o'clock at her house. The clock was striking the hour when he mounted the steps leading up to her home and rang the bell. He was all of a tremor when he entered the drawing room, where he had had many happy tete-a-tetes with Miss Gwynne and where he had parted with her in anger. Presently she came in and stood with her hand resting on the back of a chair. He rose and stammered:

"Thank heaven I am not too late."

"For what?"  
"To save you from marrying a man whom you suppose to be a gentleman, but who is really"—

"Heavens!"  
"I am here to make a confession. On the day I left you I felt much aggrieved. I did that which I admit, was unworthy of me. Seeing a man in rags who was the perfect image of Howard Belding, I persuaded him to personate that person to win your heart. But I never intended that the matter should go so far. And, not hearing from my man, in my cooler moments I congratulated myself that he had disappeared without taking any action."

Miss Gwynne stood for a moment as if trying to recover from the blow; then with one word, "Wait!" she left the room. In a moment Shotwell heard the ring of a telephone bell. He remained where he was for some minutes, when the front door opened and Miss Gwynne entered with her fiancé.

"We've met again," said the man who had come in to Shotwell. "What have you to say against me?"  
Shotwell was astonished at the man's assurance.

"You know what you are and of the bargain I made with you," said Shotwell.

"I know of the bargain most assuredly. As to myself, I am Howard Belding. When you met me that day I was endeavoring in vain, to find out the needs of the poor. I was succeeding. I could best do this in the costume of that region—rags. I have to thank you for being the means of my winning a lovely girl. I have never told her till now of her own escape by making known your contemptible conduct. Will you oblige me by vacating these premises?"

Shotwell stood for a moment looking at the man, wondering if there could be truth in his assertion.

"Prove what you say," he said presently.

The man turned to his affianced. "Do you require proof?" he asked.

"Proof? No. If that man said you were Mr. Belding I would require proof that you were what he said you were."

"Then, sir, I see no reason for you to interest yourself further in our affairs."

Shotwell, covering, left them.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

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**ROYAL BAKING POWDER**  
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## Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

## PERT PARAGRAPHS.

MEGAPHONES are convenient articles sometimes, but the circulating medium of the country has no use for one when it feels called upon to make a few brief and well chosen remarks.

Some men act as if they fear they will infringe on a patent right if they speak kindly.

What can't be cured sticks us for a heavy surgeon's fee.

Many a young woman practices music before marriage and economy ever after.

Justice, in addition to being slow, is apt to be mistaken in the people she is in pursuit of.

The man who doesn't know himself isn't as wise as his wife.

Friends are individuals that we have enlisted for the purpose of helping us out of difficulty in time of need.

If some people were to tell only what they know their silence would be so deep and impressive that they would be scared to death over the reputation for wisdom that they would find thrust upon them.

Calumny is a hideous thing and after chasing round always finds that none will harbor it and is finally forced to return to its parent roof.

Making a living is strenuous, so, of course, we need to live strenuously to use the strenuous living we have made.

The Problem.  
When foodstuff on a rampage goes  
And up the ladder chases  
And when the prices higher get  
How will we feed our faces?  
Or will our stomachs have to go  
On an enforced vacation  
Or, if it doesn't come to that,  
Pull through on half a ration?

"Fierce" is the only word that can do justice to the matter.  
It almost takes its weight in gold  
To fill the family plaster.  
You go out with a pocket full  
Of bills, and after paying  
The score, if there is any left,  
In splendid luck you're playing.

It used to be a man could save  
A portion of his earnings  
And still have plenty in the house  
To satisfy his yearnings.  
But now he is a lucky dog  
If he can answer, "No, sir;  
I do not owe the baker man,  
The butcher or the grocer."

But that's the way it is today.  
There's no use in denying  
That living is so very high  
It takes the strong from dying.  
You go into the corner store,  
And if you can't get trusted  
Before you turn three times around  
You find that you are busted.

Running the Risk.  
"Do you know Muggs?"  
"Yes; he is a chance acquaintance."  
"He says he went to school with you."

"He did. I call him a chance acquaintance because every once in awhile I loan him a dollar and take a chance on him."

So Unusual.  
"Do have a little common sense."  
"You horrid thing!"  
"What do you mean?"  
"To say that to me!"  
"Ask you to have common sense is mean?"  
"Yes. Do you want me to be a freak?"

Plenty of Exercises.  
"Do you belong to an athletic club?"  
"No."  
"Dear me, don't you take any exercise?"  
"I do."  
"In what form?"  
"Running the hot air furnace."

Natural Inference.  
"Hear about the fire in the clock factory?"  
"No."  
"The fire department didn't seem to be in much of a hurry to get to it."  
"Maybe they thought the man had time to burn!"

Sufficient.  
"They have separated."  
"Indeed?"  
"Yes."  
"For what reason?"  
"He refused to sew on the buttons that he tore off her dress while trying to fasten it."

As It Is Practiced.  
"There is a time when taking others' property isn't stealing."  
"What property?"  
"An umbrella."

"When?"  
"When it is raining."

An Up to Date Reason.  
"Phyllis, will you marry me?"  
"Thank you, George; it cannot be."  
"And what's the reason, do you say?"  
"Sirloin is too high today."

Tender Hearted.  
"Why did she refuse him?"  
"She said she was really too fond of him to care to see him married."

An attack of the grip is often followed by a persistent cough, which to many proves a great annoyance. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been extensively used and with good success for the relief and cure of this cough. Many cases have been cured after all other remedies had failed. Sold by all druggists.